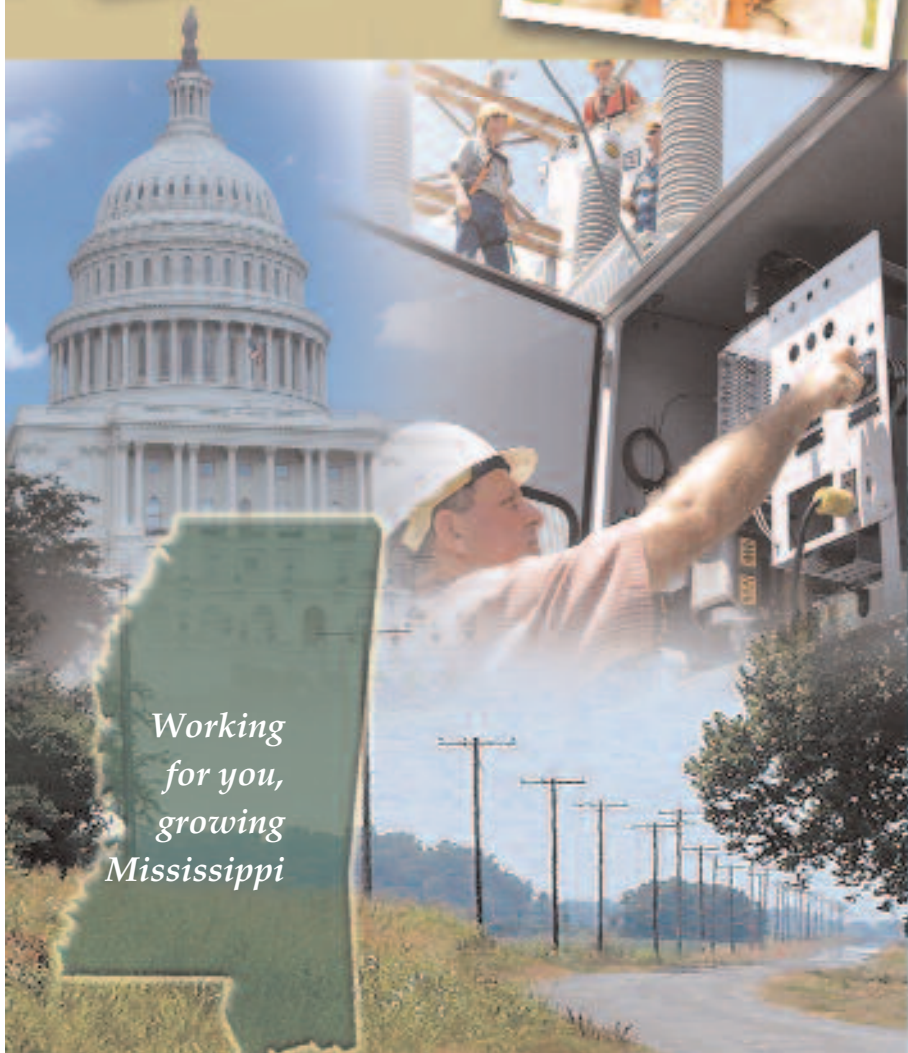


# Mississippi's Electric Power Associations

serving more than 1.7 million Mississippians



*Our*  
**QUALITY  
of  
LIFE**



*Working  
for you,  
growing  
Mississippi*

Urgent challenges facing our nation include the need to maintain adequate electric energy capacity for consumers while protecting the environment.

We believe all Mississippians should have access to affordable, reliable and safe electric service, and as member-owned cooperatives, we have a responsibility to advance consumer interests.

We ask our Congressional delegation to help us ensure the enactment of balanced policies that support these goals.



# Mississippians stand to lose!

Congressional leaders have vowed to transform the electric service industry, a process that will create winners and losers.

*Wrong decisions now will be costly and difficult to correct in the future.*

More than 70 percent of Mississippi's electric energy generation is provided by coal and nuclear fuel sources.

## COST

Mississippians' electricity use is high, due to the climate.

Our quality of life is based upon safe, clean, reliable and affordable electric service. But that service is being threatened by proposed legislation and the suffering economy. Our people are hurting from an increase in the cost of living and rising unemployment. With less disposable income, they are being forced to make tough financial decisions and sacrifice some essentials.

**More Mississippians are seeking assistance programs to help pay their utility bills.** One example: Wesley House Community Center, a Meridian-based Christian relief mission, recently appealed to East Mississippi Electric Power Association for help in providing heating pads for "an influx of elderly and disabled clients who are fighting to keep their heat on," according to Ginger Stevens, executive

director of Wesley House.

There is a steady increase in the number of delinquent utility accounts throughout the state; termination of services to customers is not pleas-

ant for anyone. **Several electric power associations are reporting up to 20 percent of their customers are consistently late in their monthly payments.** Bills left unpaid result in millions of dollars in yearly write-offs, increasing the cost of electric service for everyone.

Consumers could face more financial hardships if Congress is not careful in developing legislation to address environmental issues. Estimates based on previously proposed legislation showed an average consumer's cost of electric service under a cap and trade system could increase by as much as \$1,500 annually, or \$125 per month. **In a recent survey, two out of three Mississippians think their electric bills will go up due to Congressional action.**

If done incorrectly, energy-related legislation could be detrimental to our state's economy. Policy that results in higher energy costs can stunt, if not halt, business development and expansion. **Higher energy bills can lead to higher prices for products and services, lay-offs or even business closure.** Another financial burden will be placed on consumers, just when they are seeking economic stability.

How can we work together to ensure all Mississippians have affordable electric service?

# AVAILABILITY

Mississippi has limited abilities to develop large-scale renewable resources.

**We could be facing a crisis in the availability of electric power.** Keeping the lights on and avoiding forced outages could be more of a challenge in the future and is a serious concern for electric service providers.

The nation's growing demand for electricity drives the need to build new power plants. Yet fuel sources for electric energy generation are being limited. **We must have a diversified fuel mix, including coal and nuclear.** More than 50 percent of Mississippi's electric power generation is fueled by coal. Coal is available, affordable and should continue to be the primary source of electric power generation.

**Electricity generated by renewable sources is expensive.** TVA CEO Tom Kilgore recently testified to Congress that wind-generated electricity costs 70 cents per kilowatt-hour; while coal- and

nuclear-generated electricity costs 4 and 4.2 cents, respectively.

The promotion and use of renewable sources of energy will benefit those states with an abundance of wind and solar resources. But not Mississippi, where wind and solar generation is not commercially feasible. The purchase and delivery of such power from other regions are not feasible and could dramatically raise our electric rates.

**We promote energy-efficiency, a hallmark of our service for more than a decade.** Electric power associations spend millions of dollars annually on programs to help consumers improve their home's energy efficiency. A recent survey reported 81 percent of our consumers have reduced their own energy consumption. The new stimulus plan could be an added benefit to some of our consumers—but certainly not all.

## THE REALITY

### WE URGE YOU TO CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

- Electricity is the engine that drives the economy — for people and businesses.
- Electric service could double in cost. In a recent Mississippi survey, 58 percent of respondents said they were unwilling to pay more on their electric bill to help fight climate change, the leading force behind the legislative movement.
- Large-scale use of renewables in Mississippi is not a viable option, due to low levels of wind and solar availability.
- Renewables generate limited and inconsistent output—and require conventional back-up power supplies.
- Without new electric generation capacity, around-the-clock service might become unreliable and unavailable.
- A large number of Mississippi consumers will not qualify for or be able to afford to benefit from tax incentives.

**MISSISSIPPIANS CANNOT AFFORD TO BE BURDENED WITH ADDITIONAL COST!**

## This We Believe

*All Mississippians should have access to affordable and reliable electric service.*

We are consumer advocates fully committed to helping our consumers save money and resources by changing the way they use electricity.

We are fully committed to achieving balanced solutions to our nation's energy and environmental policy goals.

All fuels and technologies must be available to produce electric power.

We believe fossil fuels are an essential part of a reliable electric supply.

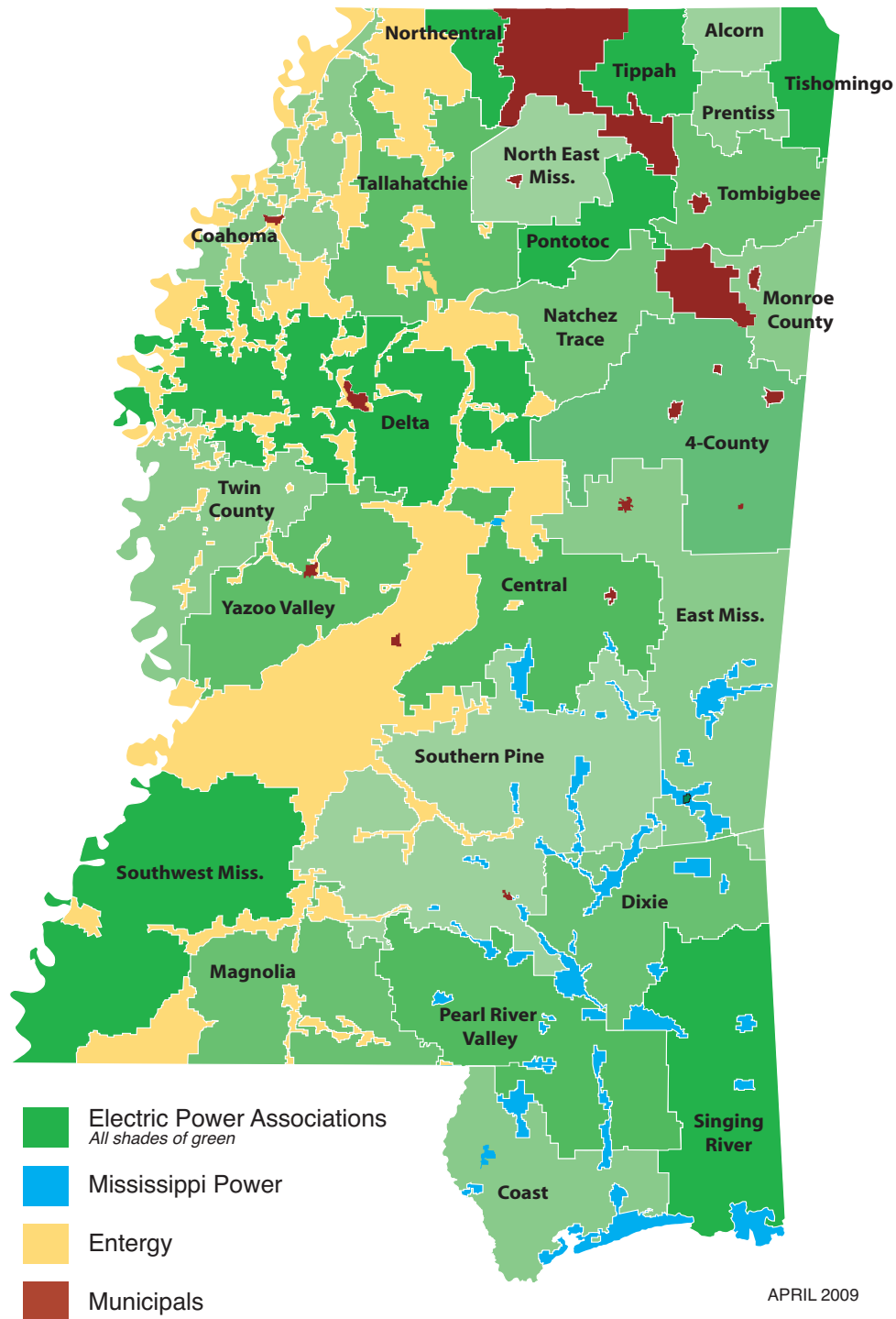
Electric power associations support cost-effective renewable energy.

We believe the country needs a modern, smarter electric grid.

We have a responsibility to help elected officials develop sound legislation.

The Rural Utilities Service must continue providing capital needs for electric cooperatives.

**By working together we can help make new legislation work for all Mississippians.**



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### *The future of electric service*

Will Mississippians be able to afford it?

Will it be available when they need it?

*As the advocate for more than 1.7 million Mississippians who receive their electric service from an electric power association, we ask for your support in:*

- *protecting our quality of life through affordable and reliable electricity*
- *finding realistic, workable solutions for future energy needs.*

### **Electric Power Associations of Mississippi**

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